



State and Consumer Services Agency – Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr
BOARD OF BARBERING AND COSMETOLOGY
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FACT SHEET: ELECTROLYSIS

Electrolysis is the **permanent** removal of unwanted facial and/or body hair by use of a tiny needle or probe that conducts electric current.

Q: DO ELECTROLOGISTS NEED TO BE LICENSED?

A: Yes, California licenses electrologists and requires them to work only in state-licensed establishments with a **valid electrologist license posted at all times.**

Q: CAN ANY OTHER LICENSE-TYPES PERFORM ELECTROLYSIS?

A: No. No other license-types are permitted to perform electrolysis.

Q: WHAT ARE SOME SERVICES THAT ELECTROLOGISTS CANNOT PROVIDE?

A: Some services that Electrologists cannot provide are:

1. Using Needles to Cauterize Spider Veins
2. Laser Treatments/Hair Removal Treatments
3. Administration of Medication(s) for Any Reason

Q: WHAT SHOULD I KNOW IF I DECIDE TO HAVE ELECTROLYSIS PERFORMED?

A: Below are some tips to remember if you have electrolysis performed:

1. After the service, your skin will usually be slightly red and may be irritated for several hours.
2. If you have severe symptoms (e.g. scabbing or blistering), contact your doctor immediately.
3. Confirm that the service you are getting is actually electrolysis and not simply electronic tweezing, which may not permanently remove the hair.

For additional information, contact the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology.